

**FALCON TO GONDER 345 kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND
PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENTS**

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Battle Mountain, Elko and Ely Field Offices

Cooperating Agencies Nevada Division of Wildlife
State Historic Preservation Office

Project Location: Eureka, Elko, Lander, and White Pine Counties, in the State of Nevada. The project would be constructed on both public and private lands.

EIS Number: NV 063-EIS00-27
Case File Number N-63162

Correspondence and Questions Mary Craggett, Team Leader
on this EIS Should be Directed Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain Field Office
to: 50 Bastian Road
Battle Mountain, NV 89820-1420
(775) 635-4060

Website: Information is also available on our website at
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/falcongonder>

ABSTRACT

Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPC) is proposing to construct a new 345 kV electric transmission line in north central Nevada that would extend approximately 180 miles between the Falcon substation west of Dunphy to the Gonder substation north of Ely. The transmission line would be supported by tubular steel H-frame structures and angle towers that would vary in height from 75 to 130 feet above ground level, depending on the terrain. The project also includes the expansion and installation of additional facilities at the existing Falcon and Gonder substations. SPPC has applied for a right-of-way grant from the BLM to construct, operate and maintain the project on federal public land. This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzes the environmental effects of five potential transmission line route alternatives for the project, as well as the No Action Alternative. The Pine Valley (a) Route has been selected as the preferred alternative. The Final EIS also analyzes the environmental effects of related amendments to BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs) that are being proposed (i.e., amendments to the Shoshone-Eureka, Elko, and Egan RMPs). Written comments on the Final EIS must be postmarked by January 22, 2002, and sent to the address above.

Responsible Official for the EIS: Robert V. Abbey
Nevada State Director
Bureau of Land Management